

on a hazardous section of river near his hometown where he saved the lives of 77 swimmers. He went on to become a college athlete and then traveled to Hollywood, where he became one of the most popular actors of the '50s and early '60s. But, it was in the realm of politics where Ronald Reagan would make his most meaningful and lasting impact, first as a two-term governor of the State of California and then, most significantly, as the President of the United States from 1981 through 1989. Quite, simply, Ronald Reagan changed the world, and we are all the better for it.

Ronald Reagan, more than any other individual, was responsible for winning the Cold War, the epic struggle that pitted the United States and its allies against a Communist force armed with enough nuclear weapons to threaten the existence of humanity. Relying on his deeply held beliefs of the supremacy of liberty and democracy, Reagan assumed the office of President and sought not to accommodate or merely contain Communist expansionism, but to defeat it. He had the courage to speak the truth about the former Soviet Union, to accurately label it as an "evil empire" that would ultimately be consigned to the "ash heap of history." He realized that for democracy to prevail in this twilight struggle of differing ideologies with monumental consequences, he had to become a relentless warrior on behalf of the American ideals of liberty, free enterprise, and the primacy of the individual in society. His fortitude provided the American people with purpose and victory over Communism.

Ronald Reagan buoyed up our nation not only with his ever-present smile, his genial nature, and his self-deprecating humor but also with the substance of his ideas: his enduring faith in the innate goodness and creativity of the American people; his steadfast belief in the exceptionalism of our constitutional democracy and economic order; and his unyielding conviction that freedom and democracy will triumph over oppression and tyranny. Ronald Reagan was, and will always remain, a giant on the stage of history, a commanding presence and respected leader whose commitment to freedom and democracy will inspire generations to come. Truly it can be said that Ronald Reagan lifted the spirits of the American people by appealing to our best hopes, not our worst fears, and because of that, he will remain forever in the hearts of the American people.

Walking side-by-side with Ronald Reagan through his life's journey was his wonderful wife and best friend, Nancy. Her dignity and grace as First Lady were exemplary, but even more inspiring has been the strength and resiliency she has demonstrated since her husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease 10 years ago. Nancy's devotion to the former President has been nothing less than heroic, and our prayers and the prayers of a nation are with her during this time.

Though our hearts are heavy as we mourn the loss of a beloved leader, we are comforted knowing that Ronald Reagan has gone onto a better place. To borrow the words he used to comfort the nation following the *Challenger* disaster, Ronald Reagan has "slipped the surly bonds to earth" to "touch the face of God."

Passage of this resolution will allow us to pay tribute to this great man and his legacy.

It will allow all those who loved and admired Ronald Reagan a final opportunity to say a final goodbye. As he lies in state, the American people will have the opportunity to pay their respects by coming to the Capitol Rotunda. I expect that many thousands will do so.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this Resolution.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 444.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Concurrent Resolution 444.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING USE OF ROTUNDA OF CAPITOL FOR LYING IN STATE OF REMAINS OF LATE RONALD WILSON REAGAN, 40TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FROM JUNE 9 UNTIL JUNE 11, 2004

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 115) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the lying in state of the remains of the late Ronald Wilson Reagan, 40th President of the United States, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 115

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in recognition of the long and distinguished service rendered to the Nation and to the world, by the late Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, his remains be permitted to lie in state in the rotunda of the Capitol from June 9 until June 11, 2004, and the Architect of the Capitol, under the direction of the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall take all necessary steps for the accomplishment of that purpose.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

A similar House concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 444) was laid on the table.

□ 1045

MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 664) mourning the passing of President Ronald Reagan and celebrating his service to the people of the United States and his leadership in promoting the cause of freedom for all the people of the world, and ask for its immediate further consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). The Clerk will report the title of the resolution.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Time for debate on the resolution on the legislative day of June 8 had expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of that day, it is now in order to conduct a further period of debate on the resolution.

The gentleman from California (Mr. COX) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) each will control 1½ hours.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the Land of Lincoln and the birthplace of Ronald Reagan, and the chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I have given much thought to what I might usefully contribute to the chorus of those thousands who will be called upon or be moved to voice their respect and their sadness at the death of President Reagan. His accomplishments will be rightly celebrated, his humanity and character justly praised, his passing mourned in words of elegance and emotion. How large a stone can one hope to add to this touring mountain?

President Reagan was the oldest person to be elected President in our history, and this is proof that you get the sweetest music from the oldest violins.

In the play *Camelot*, King Arthur says, "We are all of us tiny drops in a vast ocean, but some of them sparkle." President Reagan was never a tiny drop in a vast ocean, but he did indeed sparkle.

By his life and service he put the "sacred" back in honor. Not through exhortation, but by example, Reagan's gentle leadership reminded a country disoriented by doubt of its enduring beliefs. In this, his guiding principle was that of George Washington's, "Let us raise a standard in which the wise and honest can repair. The event is in the hand of God."